

## A CLIMATE READY BOSTON

Preparing Boston to face the challenge of climate change can drive equitable development and create jobs; improve transit and other community services; increase access to open space; and enhance health and security. Led by the City of Boston and the Green Ribbon, Climate Ready Boston is aimed at identifying how Boston's climate is going to change, what's most at risk, and steps that can be taken to improve our community and thrive in the future. It builds on Boston's commitment to address global warming by cutting carbon and other emissions. The Climate Ready Boston report is available at (<https://www.boston.gov/environment-and-energy/climate-ready-boston>) and was developed with input from leading scientists; city, regional and state staff; utilities; and nonprofit and community organizations.

## What We're Facing

From record snowstorms in 2015 to more frequent flooding on Morrissey Boulevard – climate impacts are here and projected to increase, affecting people, the economy, critical services, and homes and businesses. Children and older adults, people with health issues and disabilities, low-to-no income community members, people of color, and those with low English proficiency can be particularly impacted by climate disruption. Scientists agree there are three key hazards for Boston to focus on:

### MORE HOT DAYS



#### More Heat:

Hotter summers. More frequent and extreme heat waves creating health hazards, power outages and other challenges. Winters will be warmer with cold snaps that cause frost and freeze damage. (Text box: Boston's summers may be as hot as Washington, D.C's in 50 years and like Birmingham Alabama's in 80.)

### INCREASED EXTREME PRECIPITATION



#### Major Rain and Snowfall:

Extreme rain and snow events are increasing and the trend is expected to continue disrupting transit, damaging buildings and infrastructure, and limiting access to jobs and services.

### GREATER AMOUNTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE

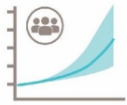


#### Sea Level Rise:

Sea level rise is underway and accelerating. With sharp emissions reductions, the impact could be less than two feet, yet business as usual could generate much higher levels by the end of the century.

## Increasing Boston's Climate Readiness

*Climate Ready Boston* outlines five key action items and recommends strategies to prepare Boston for change.



### **Climate Projection Consensus:**

Provide Boston with the latest data and tools for developing climate ready plans and policies.

#### *Proposed Strategies*

- Update climate data every five years and translate into easy-to-use reports and maps.



### **Prepared & Connected Communities:**

Involve Bostonians in identifying climate risks and innovative responses.

#### *Proposed Strategies*

- Work with organizations to build awareness of climate risks and responses.
- Help train workers for jobs in resilience. Ensure projects follow hiring guidelines for local, living wage, minority and women-owned businesses.
- Develop local climate resilience plans with community members that reflect neighborhood priorities.



### **Protected Shores:**

Promote a thriving and accessible waterfront through the creation of a coastal protection system.

#### *Proposed Strategies*

- Investigate opportunities to invest in local and district wide flood protections, and ensure development won't limit future response options.

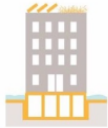


## **Resilient Infrastructure:**

Bolster power, water, transportation, communication and energy systems and reduce impacts through design.

### *Proposed Strategies*

- Update planning and design standards to reflect climate risks, and coordinate responses across infrastructure systems.
- Explore neighborhood clean energy micro-grid systems that deliver power during outages, cut carbon, and generate economic opportunities.
- Expand the use of green infrastructure (i.e. reduce flooding by restoring salt marshes.)



## **Adapted Buildings:**

Build or retrofit homes and businesses to withstand increased risks from flooding and adjust to hotter temperatures.

### *Proposed Actions*

- Update zoning and building regulations to ready new development for impacts and explore retrofit options for existing buildings.
- Prepare buildings facing the most risk and serving a public purpose.
- Promote access to flood insurance.

## **What You Can Do**



### **Help Make Boston Climate Ready**

Join Boston's Greenovate Neighborhood Network and play a direct role in shaping a resilience plan for your neighborhood through *Climate Ready Boston* community dialogues, and by taking steps in your home or business.



### **Cut Carbon and Save Energy and Money**

Cut the carbon emissions driving changes to our climate, save energy and money via the Renew Boston program.